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EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FRENCH FURNITURE IN GALLERY 14

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FRENCH FURNITURE

AMONG the treasures to be found in the Museum are several pieces of French furniture of distinction which have been acquired from various sources. There is a commode, presented by the Antiquarian Society, with severe lines and somewhat square form which indicates that it originated during the long reign of Louis XIV. Its structure is somewhat heavy, the marquetry entirely geometric in pattern, and the ormolu or metal decorations restrained.

In the style of the Regence is the *chaise-longue* with graceful curves and delicate *rocaille* carving. This style of double-caned divan was specially developed in the sumptuous atmosphere created by Louis XV. The wood is ungilded and the decoration is a repeat of the shell form on thin foliated motives. This choice piece is from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey McCormick. From this same collection is the Louis XVI *canapé* of carved and gilded wood with the typical partly rounded seat, short straight legs, and low back. The seat, arms, and back are covered with royal Aubusson tapestry of pastoral sub-

jects and the chase; this is further embellished with heavily festooned *lambrequins* tied with ribbons. In the same style, the gift of Robert Allerton, is a *bergère*, the voluptuous form of the armchair; its down cushions are covered with an unusually fine Aubusson tapestry. The pattern of flower and figure motives in rose Pompadour and rich blue are on a daffodil-yellow background. The gilded and carved frame has rigid lines carved in bands of classic inspiration, the legs channeled; and its tapestry is attached by round-headed nails placed close together forming a band.

A *secrétaires à abattant* made by Macret is a superlative example of the *maitre ébéniste*. Both the interior and exterior are patterned in marquetry veneer of varied woods, amaranth, tulip, rosewood, laburnum, and maple. It is further embellished with ormolu mounts and hardware. This beautiful desk is lent by Mr. and Mrs. Potter Palmer.

On the walls of the small gallery where this furniture is being shown are two pieces of Beauvais tapestry, depicting the visit of Psyche to the palace of Cupid. These belong to a loan collection.